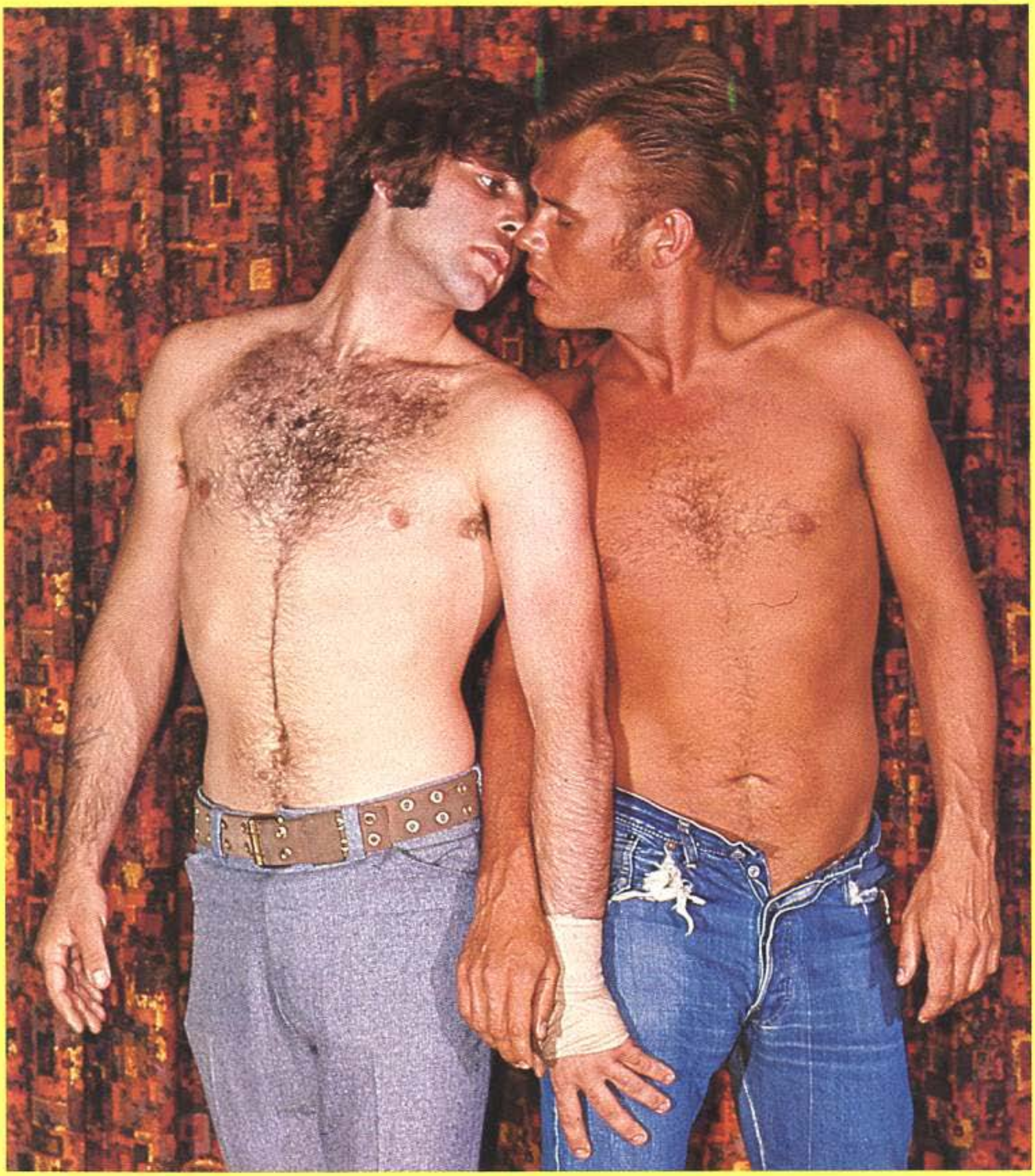
ADULTS ONLY

SIX DOLLARS

THE FINE ART OF CRUISING



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STREET CORNER PICKUP: Perhaps the most typical of all cruising locations is the street corner of any gay neighborhood. It was here that Mike Rider managed to find Tom Jeffers. Soon they were back at Mike's apartment, and while they might not have lived happily ever after, certainly found the means for a very good time.

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HALLWAY PICKUP: The dedicated cruiser knows that there are no real limits to the possibilities of "good cruising turf". Always on the lookout for a good ball, Sonny Scott spotted a new tenant in the hallway of his own apartment building. Being the hot, horny, and aggressive type, Sonny moved right in, and they were soon up at Mike's pad, sharing the wealth.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CRUISING

by Lyn Pedersen

Cruising, that is, the hunting of sexual partners, is a major avocation among Gays, if for no other reason than that, until recently, our community lacked the chaperoned and socially-stratified activities at which young heteros get to know eligible partners of their own class. Institutions designed for hetero dating (church socials, school dances, neighborhood parties, service clubs, etc.), permit a person to be armored by social convention while he surveys the prospects. The Gay, more often, goes into the hunt psycho-socially naked, without instruction, institutions, customs or peers, to help insure his success in finding an approved partner.

With no guidance, the young Gay too often lays all his cards on the table, night after night, for any stranger to pick up or discard. It can be a cruel sport, but it also can be infinitely rewarding for those who learn to play the game with finesse....

For cruising involves a knack. Like other knacks, some people seem to possess it as if by instinct; some need to learn it; and some must virtually rebuild their personalities in order to score---- unless, despite their total lack of skill, they have the rare luck to find a satisfactory partner the first time out, and to hold on. For them then, they have no need to learn, and polish the skill of the hunt.

Now you may be looking for a lifetime mate, or you may, in truth, be attracted to variety, while you pretend that each new one is the love of a lifetime. You may be looking for a temporary place to crash, with a mite of affection, and some pocket money thrown in, or you may just want a quick lay. It doesn't matter. Cruising, in any case, is the knack of finding the guy you want, or else of making yourself attractive to, and available for, the sort of guy you hope will want you.

The details of how you connect will vary, according to who you cruise, where you cruise, and what you cruise for.

RELATING TO ROLES

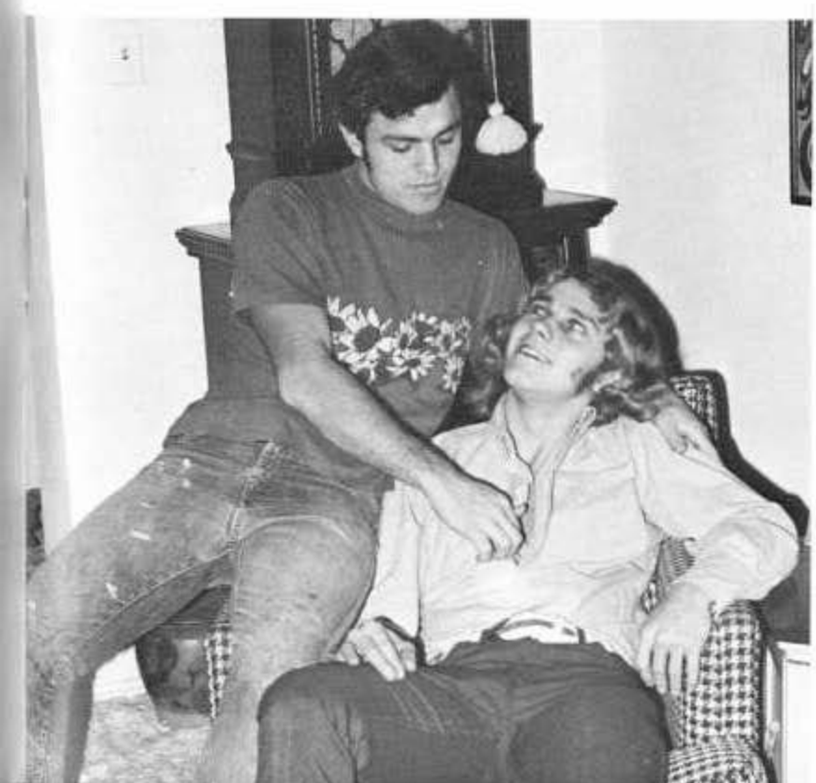
Cruising is a game, a game which you can well enjoy for its own sake, as well as for the prize at the end. It is a game which seems to start with a basic assumption that most (not all), players enter the fray either to be

picked up, or to lure someone into picking them up, and the active or passive role established during the cruising stage is often expected to be maintained during what ensues. So, if you are the kind who wants to take the passive role in bed, and you've just switched to the active role in picking up a partner, then you need to know how to pass him the lead.

There are many exceptions, but too often the exceptions merely are blunders which insure that what started out promisingly, ends indecisively. The "After you Alphonse", and "After you Gastone" sort of stalemate can be an awful bore. (It should be said in passing, that in Gay activity, the passive role is not always what it would seem to be, when considering the hetero perspective, which equates active with insertion.)

There's much well-deserved----criticism of role-playing these days----objections to the stultifying effects, which inflexible role-indoctrination has, both on individuals, and society. There al-

SCOUR & SCORE: "Sure, the truck needed a good cleaning," related Les Rich, "and of course, I could have done it out in the back yard. But why do that, when I could park it out by the curb and get in some good cruising, and make the job a lot more fun?" It wasn't long before Les spotted, and picked up on, Jerry South, who was out doing a little of our favorite sport also.



ways, of course, have been Gays who shunned gender-roles, who related to others on a par, with no need to establish who would lead and who would follow, or who shifted easily from AC to DC. Escape from role-playing (which many consider a mere aping of hetero behavior patterns), is part of the message of Gay Liberation today: seeking to free Gays for more varied pleasure, and richer human relationships.

But let's get immediate considerations clear. Social reform is one thing, and worthwhile in its own right. Giving your partner correctional therapy to counteract "sexist" role-playing ideas is another. Cruising is neither one of these.

When looking for a partner to enjoy, whether you want to share five minutes, or a lifetime, it generally works best to take people as you find them. Most of your prospective partners are likely to be somewhat into role-playing, so, unless you want a life of repeated frustration, either learn to recognize a prospective partner's role expectations, and adjust accordingly, or move on, or else confine your hunting to those who are free from role expectations. To have to try to re-educate every partner, before you can enjoy a relationship is a nuisance, and really rather an impertinence on your part.

Gays, whose manner or dress is either hyper-masculine, or lavishly feminine, are more likely than the middling types, to have distinct role expectations, vis-a-vis themselves, and their partners.

Such roles won't apply in every case, but few queens want to bed down with "a sister"----and your job, if you date them, is to play the "man" to the hilt----keeping it in mind that, after the pants are down, some queens will want to prove that they're just as much the man as you are in that department.

Where costumes run to leather, with a sprinkling of metal accessories, you can expect a ritualized approach, and in many cases, unless the little special symbols on his costume are complimented by your own, you haven't a chance. He's playing a very particular game, tonight at least, and you wouldn't challenge a guy to tennis while wearing a catcher's mitt.

Having any expectations at all about what you wish a partner to be like, or to do, narrows down the field, and requires a little rational shopper's know-how on your part. If you want a partner to cook and bring you your slippers and pipe, and do all those wifely-sweet things, then you absolutely must give up selecting partners merely by looks or cock-size----and make certain before you set up joint tenancy that you've bagged the personality type that you want.

You needn't feel too guilty really about the demands of your individual taste narrowing down the field. In the United States alone, millions of men are potentially available to you, and there's no likelihood whatever, of your managing to sample even 1% of the supply. So, if your taste predisposes you to blonds only, or to freckled, willowy redheaded carpenters, to the exclusion of all others, there's no need to feel you aren't giving the others a chance. Just do let them down graciously, if they ask.

Almost all cruisers narrow the field somewhat by their predetermined preferences----although the more adventuresome may have three, four, or even ten preferred types----and it's well to

JOB INTERVIEW: Being cruised by a personnel manager when out on a job interview, may sound a little far-fetched. But it happens a lot more than a lot of people realize. Allen Rambeau discovered that applying for the job of stock boy at a certain company in Los Angeles, led to a delightful encounter in close companionship.

know that all those you are cruising have their preferences as well, some including, and some excluding you, for the most miscellaneous of your features.

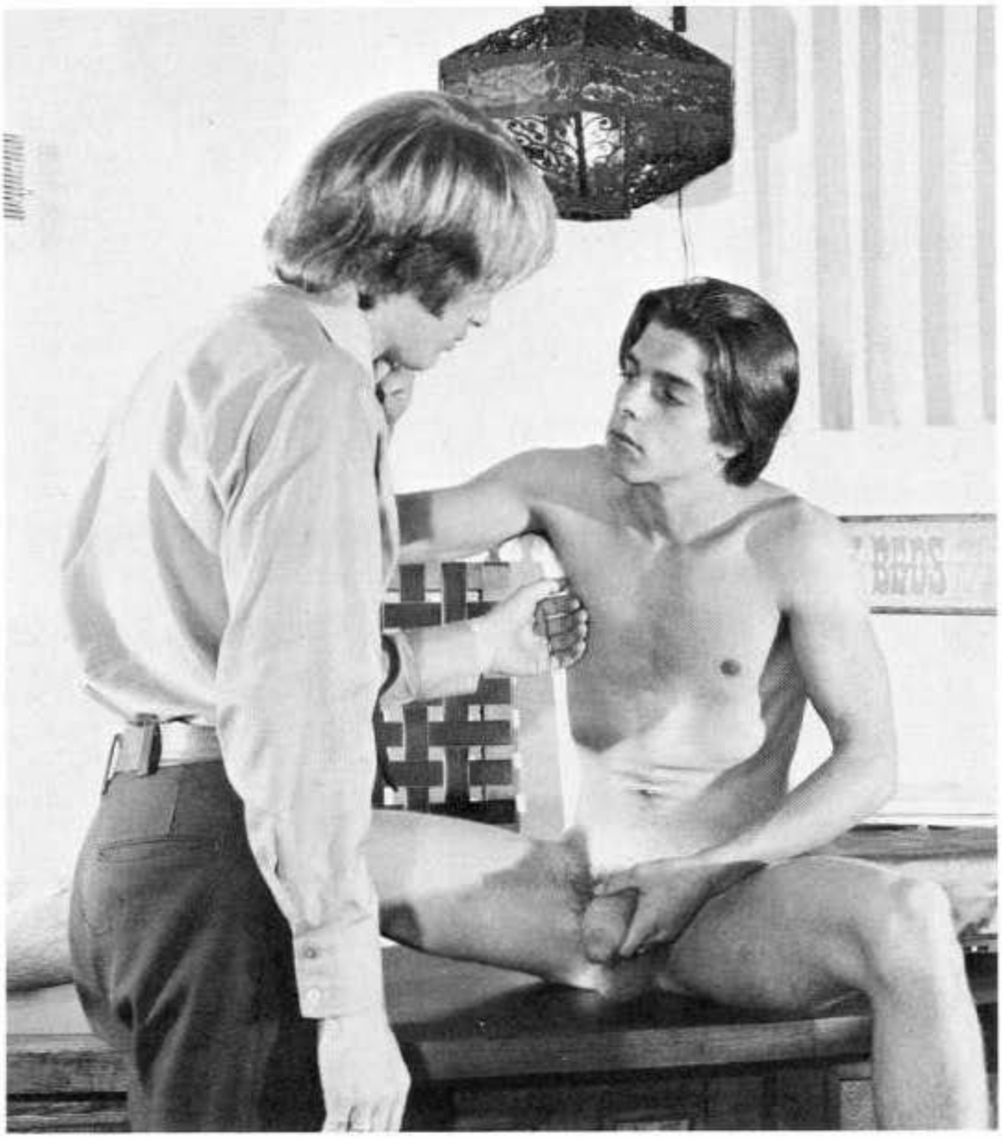
Some Gays are interested in uniforms only, (or in those tell tale signs which identify a farm-bred Marine, even when he's out of uniform). Others can only be turned on by a guy built like a brick shit-house. Some are excited by guys whom others would scorn as scrawny. Some are solely interested in penis size, while others will tumble hopelessly for the twinkle in an eye. Some are turned on (and some, alas, turned off), by body hair, and some seek partners who, in addition to physical attractions, happen to share our religious, political or aesthetic interests. A few look for the suave maturity they missed in their fathers, and far more look for a reminder of their lost youth. Some even look for a taste of danger....

As for the matter of your not being someone else's type, when that someone is an Apollo you'd love to worship: well, that's one of the real challenges of cruising: how to make someone want you, even if they don't ordinarily tumble to blonds, and you're like platinum, even if your voice is one that would ordinarily drive them up the wall, even if they're the original size-queen, and you only have four inches. The odds may be against it working, but don't forget that modern engineering *can* make water run uphill.

Where and how you hunt, depends on what you're hunting. The variety of available types which different Gays find----attractive----is of course too great to permit examples of how to bait each line----at least in an article this size. But, reason it out yourself: if you want a certain type of guy, how do you go about making yourself attractive to *him?* You need to devise your own game plan, and don't be afraid to switch tactics, if you aren't getting results.

If you specifically want a dapper gentleman, with a fine education, then you must ask what sort *he* would find attractive. Not every cultured gentleman will have the same taste, but here are a few good bets:

1: He may like partners of his own class and style, in which case if you don't already qualify, you'll have to be a chameleon in dress, interests, manners.



2: He may be sentimentally drawn to the ambitious, poor boy who-never-had-a-chance and your opportunity lies in winning his sympathy, and helping him improve your situation in life. Warning: you have to be willing to undergo a full remodeling job.

3: He may consider his own life, which looks so ideal to you, as effete, stiffling, unadventurous, and you, either as a brawny worker/peasant, or as a flouter of convention, and the rules of personal security, can represent the masculine freedom he feels he lacks.

Settling into one of these roles, after you've selected your quarry, and placed yourself where he is likely to notice you, you then move to the next stage of your game plan, seduction within the confines of your new "character" role.

So "where" you cruise relates to whatever particular types you hope to cruise. If you want to cruise Sailors or Marines, find the nearest base, and check out the locations where they hitchike when they're going on leave. Or, if that's too far for you to travel, there's always the nearest Greyhound Station, or the U.S.O. environs, or even the Western Union office, not to mention perennial seafood rows, like San Francisco's Market Street, San Diego's Broadway, Times' Square, Long Beach's Pike, etc.

For luck in cruising, being young helps. With that immeasurable advantage, it hardly matters, in most cases, whether you are husky or thin, intellectual or naive, shy or aggressive. Your youth, by itself, may not always insure you just the guy you want, but make yourself really available, and you will almost surely have takers----more of them than you can handle.

When a young Gay, even if he's rather plain, doesn't get any takers, it's often because he's let himself appear to be inapproachable. Like, you're standing in a bar, and you don't like the first guy who approaches you. You're under no obligation to accept his advance, but if others see you put him down too brusquely, they may think twice before approaching you. (This rule may be negated in some leather bars, and other places, where brusqueness, and even outright surliness, can be considered attractive attributes.)

BEDS

STREET CRUISING: Probably one of the most successful cruisers we know is Frank Vaughn. Of course, he spends more time at it than anyone else we know, also. His technique is to pick a spot, and "enjoy the weather and sights" until something of mutual interest like Jimmy Estes, comes along. When this happens which is never less than twice a day, off they go for some wild action that is the reward of the conscientious cruiser.

Many Gays, including many young ones, aren't satisfied with their appearance. It would do well to follow the old Alcoholics Anonymous rule in this matter: to change what you can, and to accept what you can't change. Some of the most dazzling---a people around----have features, that in the morning mirror appear atrocious. Get your hair styled, or trimmed, or let it grow longer, or even shave your head. Get your teeth fixed, get a face-lift, whatever it takes. Or plant some joy, or serenity, or determination inside your spirit, so as to light up your face, and make people forget that maybe your eyes don't match, or your nose is too big. There's no single rule for good looks, and just remember on the distaff side, that Barbra Streisand and Marilyn Monroe grew up thinking themselves ugly ducklings. What looks dismal in one setting, will look quite regal in another, so find your setting.

I mean, if you have that natural cowboy look, go find the sur-

roundings which compliment it, and the guys who appreciate it. If you can't open your mouth without talking about contrapuntal music, then get out of the country-and-western bar and go---- where people are tuned in to your frequency.

Early guide books to cruising used to tell you how to dress. Styles are so individualized these days, that almost any advice is applicable only to certain people, except for the general rule of finding out what your own best features are, and displaying them to their best advantage. If you have good legs, a well-shaped butt, or a cock that hangs low, even when at ease, it always pays to advertise, and baggy trousers are an inexcuseable waste, unless they're the sort of material that clings revealingly at certain---- points. You still might want to be a little discrete, while cruising in subdued places, or if being stared at makes you far too nervous.

With very good looks, you need only the kind of clothing which

will put the emphasis where it belongs. If you aren't too sure of your looks, and you plan to cruise where there's plenty of competition, you might try something to make you stand out in the crowd, though you still want people to see *you,* not just that----super-flashy shirt.

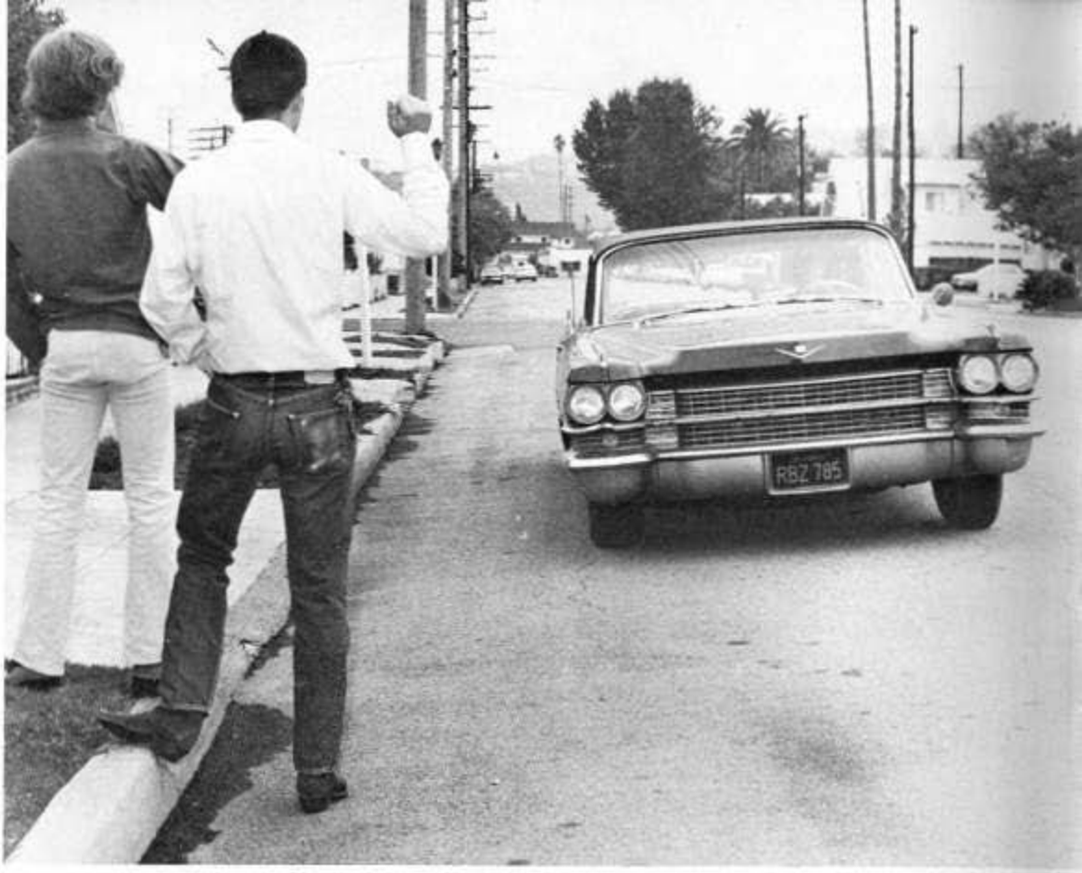
If you are neither young, nor

especially a knock-out, as far as looks are concerned, then other cruising techniques are in order. With the right techniques and locations, you often can be about as successful as many of the young beauties.

Where the young person is often offering little more than his youth and beauty (and may resent having his other fine attributes ignored), you may find, at a more advanced age, that you have other attributes to go on, your wisdom and inner strength, your savoir faire, your cruising skill, and your accummulated knowledge of who wants what, and exactly how to give it to them, or even just the advantages of your generous pocket book, and your comfortable living accommodations.

Take some examples: I assume that cruising and hustling aren't the same thing, that the cruiser looks for a partner to share his pleasures, while the hustler seeks pay for merely granting someone the pleasure of his company. The techniques of hustling do not concern us in this article, and so that rules out of immediate consideration most of the young men standing around on----Hollywood's Selma Avenue area, New York's Times Square, London's Picadilly Circus, and also Rome's Spanish steps----but *not* the men who pick them up in these locations.

A minimum of technique is required to cruise hustlers, simply because, as a general rule, you don't have to be attractive to the hustler, you merely offer him sufficient pay. The John generally needs to do no more than drive



CAR CRUISING: For the group sex lover there is, perhaps, nothing so rewarding as spotting a couple of groovy hitch-hikers. Such was Adam Scott's good fortune one day when he was out cruising around in his car. Short-haired Dave Nelson and Mike Farley were just looking for the kind of ride that Adam was able to offer them.

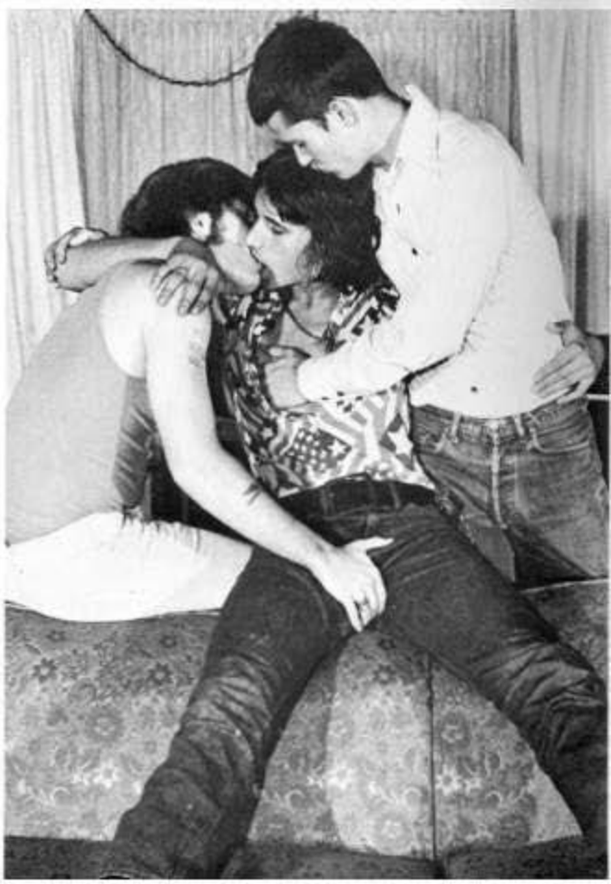
or walk past, see a guy he likes, stop and make an offer. He might have to allay the hustler's possible suspicion that he is vice. He might even be refused for all sorts of individual reasons. But most street hustlers tend to be open to all comers, no matter how maladroit the approach, unless the money isn't right, or the John suggests activities that hustler isn't ready for.

Still, a cruiser of *real* skill can sometimes get a hustler to forget the cash and go for fun. It's a real conquest, but it doesn't happen often.

BAR CRUISING

The refinements of style become most essential in Gay bar cruising. Here, except under a few specialized conditions, it is necessary for you to convince your prospective partner that you are desirable, available and safe.

The "desirable" part is mostly a matter of projecting yourself, or of projecting a convincing image you've chosen, even if only for that night. Look sweet and demure; or look like the new boy in town, naive, lonely and lost; look and sound like the consistent



high-roller who always takes home the best prize; look surly and butch, or pensive and mysterious; but *make it look good!* If someone whom you find interesting buys you a drink, let him know you appreciate it. If the handsome guy next to you struggles to start up a conversation, give him the kind of encouraging answer that keeps the talk alive, even if you aren't really interested in today's baseball score, and even if you aren't ready yet to give up on everyone else in the place, and let him pin his claim tag on you.

It's very rare that conversation will start out with any kind of direct sexual invitation, (that happens only on Police arrest-reports, which are copied out of Police Academy textbooks). That guy on the next bar-stool is more likely to open up with a pun that takes off on whatever is playing on the jukebox, or else a comment on something as banal as the weather, but you ought to respond as if you found the topic at least moderately interesting, and, if you can push the conversation to a more interesting area with-

out getting tedious or too smart-alecky, score one for you.

After all, what you and he, and a couple of others listening in from further down the bar, are really asking one another is: "Would I like to know you better?" So, even if the guy isn't exactly your type, the more exciting one two seats down the bar is probably listening, and don't let your response to one, give the other the impression that you are either dull-witted, or inconsiderate of others' feelings.

You need to be interesting (remembering always that not everyone is interested in the same things), and there are countless ways to do it. No one style will snare all prospects: being talkative will work in one time and place----being taciturn in another. One guy will be hauled in by campy humor, one by an adroit bit of philosophizing, one by an astute analysis of the President's non-program for dealing with the current World Economic Crisis, and seven by the charm of naivete. One also has to remember that it is not uncommon that someone may be ever so charm-

THE PEEPING TOM: Being a "Peeping Tom" isn't exactly recommended, however, to the devoted cruiser it can have its rewards, as Duane Ferguson discovered one evening on his way home from the grocery store. Tom Blake and David Jade were more than glad to have a little company, especially when the company turned out to have hands as talented as Duane's.

ed by your conversation but still, when the time comes, find---- someone who charms them in a different way to take home to bed.

In the long run, being your own unaffected self probably works better than putting on an act, except in those specialized bar scenes where a particular act comes to be expected. We also said that you need to be available.

AVAILABILITY

This is one of the primary rules. It realy is quite unsportsmanlike to cruise when you haven't got the time to follow up. It is a

waste of your own time as well. If you stop off in a bar on your way to work, or just before catching a cab to the airport, or in the last forty five minutes before an important, unavoidable appointment, you really owe it to the guys who might express interest in you to let them know that you're just killing time----a very----limited amount of time---- and that you absolutely won't have time to do what is probably already working itself out in their minds.

They won't turn away from you for telling them about it. The likelihood is they'll be much more likely to make you the center of attention, since most of them want a chance to put their personality on display without the fear of being specifically turned down. So you can enjoy your one hour fling as the good-deed Sally who stimulated others to open up and get their fishing lines properly unfurled.

And when, and if, you return to that bar a day or a week later, one or two of them are going to remember you fondly, as someone who was fun to be with and who almost certainly has more interesting charms to explore.

At night, if you absolutely have to go home to an ailing mother, or to your jealous lover, don't lead others on, only to drop them the moment the bar closes. Of course, if someone you absolutely don't want latches on to you, and won't take no for an answer any other way, then aging mother or irate lover may make a convincing excuse----but there are subtle ways of informing most guys that you want company, briefly, but intend to go straight home alone afterward. If they then flatter you by making a more persistent play, it feeds your ego, and, having warned them adequately, you needn't feel guilty when you do cut out as promised.

But, as a general rule, cruise when you have time for it. I mean, you wouldn't enter a chess tournament, and then get up after you'd made the first five moves, and announce that you had a plane to catch....

More often than not in bars, having sufficient time should mean that you have nothing really urgent to do until next morning at least. And in some cases, *that* can be too soon for parting.

The Der Odeon Kring bar in Amsterdam, popularly known as the DOK, is a private club, but for foreigners, a passport is a membership card. I have been in the bar, a large and friendly place, three times. Each time I had only about an hour before either having to meet the friends I was travelling with or heading back to my hotel to get ready to leave the country, and each of those times, I was cruised by an extremely handsome young man, and his English, plus my snippets of Dutch, French, German or any other language he might understand, couldn't quite handle the

explanations of why I was, of course, very interested in him, but didn't have time to go anywhere.

And many's the time, after a quite pleasant night, I've had to break it up for a routine day's work, when it would have been so much better to keep things going until late afternoon.

Consider the little signals----(body-English sort of things)----by which you or your partner project whether you are interested in a quickie at the nearest convenient private place, or whether the magnetism is more romantic. For the former, you may be willing to take care of things in a john, in a car, in a secluded doorway, or such (though this is always dangerous), or even if one of you has quarters nearby, what needs to be done may only take a few minutes. Men have been known to rent a hotel room together, and be satisfactorily done with it in less than ten minutes. And for such purposes, it pays to know what hotels are easy to check in to. If you and your partner are keyed up to do something that will only take five minutes, you certainly don't want to spend fifteen minutes fooling around with routine with a desk clerk, and all that.

But, if your prospective partner has that romantic look in his eyes, or if you do, it's most inconsiderate for either one of you to take the other home, make him go down on you, then shove him out the door as soon as he's

swallowed your load. If he's worth the game, you would do well to spend all night, and at least half the next day, even if you *do* have to call in sick. It is the most enjoyable of explorations, and deserves every minute it takes.

Just remember, when you're out hunting for the spice of life, once in awhile something turns up that's far better than you expected. You may pick up the handsomest guy you've ever seen and he may have two airline tickets ready to fly to a party in Acapulco, and wouldn't it be a shame to pass up such an adventure, just because next day is a work-day? (Though flying to----Acapulco without having some arrangements for getting back on your own in case the party doesn't work out----that's risky.)

THE HITCH-HIKER: Just mention cruising to someone, and most often the first image that will pop into his head, is that of the lone hitch-hiker out looking for a ride, and who knows what else. Mark Sanger discovered long ago that the easiest way to get cruised is to put out your thumb. He was a little surprised when his "ride" turned up on foot, but when Dave Whitlaw promised him a "good trip", he was more than ready to give it a try.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

Which I suppose, brings us back to the third point I mentioned a ways back: that of safety. Cruising has its attendant risks, and getting stranded next morning in Acapulco is, ordinarily, not one of the chief ones to look out for. Outstanding among the risks, is the possibility that your prospective partner may be vice, or some other thug whose interest is definitely not in making love, or even in your well-being. Fag-rolling (the British call it queer-bashing), is a popular pastime among many young toughs, especially young men who are having trouble recognizing their own homosexual inclination. Knowing that they may be trying to punish or exorcize their own homosexual desires is of little advantage to you, unless you are fast-talking and adroit at psyching them, a technique I wouldn't generally recommend, even in extremis.

A major part of your cruising technique has to be concerned with your personal safety. Unless you limit your cruising to the very safest places (like demure private parites, and socials given by responsible, homophile organizations), you must, of necessity, size up each prospect cagily (and not too cagy, since that can be a terrible turnoff), before you lay all your cards on the table. There's a ticklish sort of calculus here: an excess of caginess makes you not only less attractive, it is also likely to make your partner suspect that you are exactly what you suspect he is. So be careful, but not so careful that you don't enjoy life. You are playing the odds, and you need to develop something of a gambler's blitheness and daring, but remember, it is a game of Russian Roulette that you are playing, so learn to size things up calmly without appearing too calculating, nervous, or fearful.

And you ought to have some

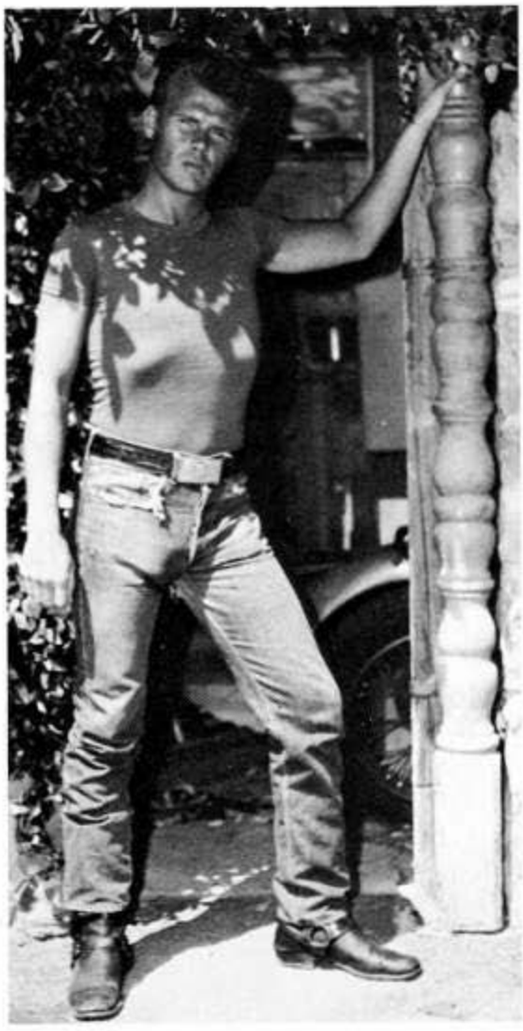
idea what to do if you do turn up a bad one. Don't wait until after you are arrested to start phoning friends to find the name of a good attorney. Get their names before-hand, and carry their telephone numbers with you, along with the number of a decent bail-bondsman, and be prepared in advance for their financial requirements. Know a reliable doctor also, beforehand. If the vice, or other thugs beat you up, you want medical attention fast, and it may be necessary to have your wounds photographed. Of course you don't want these things to happen. And some Gays can cruise freely for a lifetime and never have this sort of trouble. Others can exercise infinite care, only engage in real cruising one or two times, and BAM! They've had it. So be prepared. It may never happen, but if it does, you wouldn't want to bleed to death while you were busy dialing everyone you know to see if any of them know a reliable doctor....

One method for avoiding----trouble, is to cruise where you already know a few people----like the bartender. Before you go home with someone, ask if anyone else knows him. It isn't foolproof, but it picks up your odds of safety 1,000%.

CRUISING STYLES

The style of cruising in bars depends, in part, on the tone of the particular bar, and its clientelle. In one bar it's enough merely to stand in a somewhat provocative pose, waiting until someone----gives you a smile----or else comes over and strikes up a conversation. Or, should you see someone whose pose, or something, excites you, notice what he's drinking and have the bartender deliver him another round, (and that's also a good time to learn what you can about him from the bartender). If the guy smiles in your direction, return the smile, and be ready to amble over in his direction if he doesn't come your way first.

Be sure you don't misinterpret the gesture, if the bartender brings you a beer you didn't order and says its from the fourth guy down the bar. Ask discretely if it was meant for you especially, or if the guy was buying a round and included you in. In many bars, especially the small neighborhood ones, where most of the customers know one another, customers frequently take turns buying rounds of drinks. Sometimes they buy them only for their friends, and sometimes they include strangers in. So it doesn't necessarily mean that he's cruising you----and it doesn't exclude that possibility either. At the very least, you've been invited to join in whatever general conversation is going on. If there's a pool table, or a pinball machine, ask him if he'd like a game. Or you might go to the jukebox and just casually ask if he has a favorite number to play. (Any of these methods can be tried even if he hasn't bought you a drink.) And you may be expected to buy a



PORCH CRUISING: Some people are lucky enough to live in areas where the cruising is so good that all you have to do is stand outside your own front door in order to score. Duke Richards had a couple of added enticements, and it didn't take him long to let Mike Tanner discover him and them.

round later yourself----if you can't afford it, let the bartender know that you either can't afford, or can't handle, more than one or two drinks per evening. If you accept several times without reciprocating, you may find yourself cold-shouldered later in the bar you had at first found so friendly.

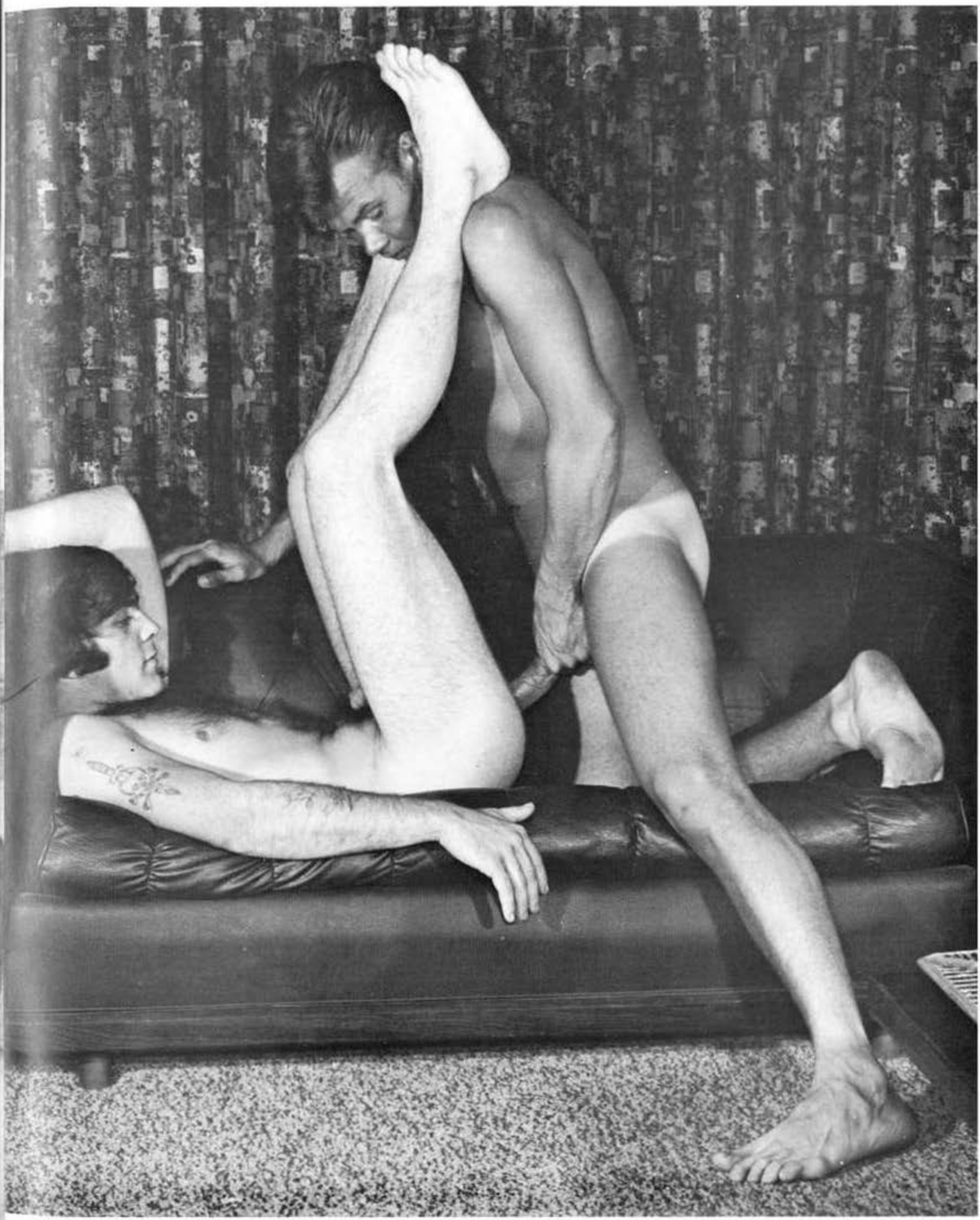
In many such neighborhood bars, socializing is more the order of the day than cruising, so a friendly conversational opening isn't necessarily an invitation to go home for fun and games.

Some bar cruising is quite direct----and also quite dangerous, (though, while you should exercise certain cautions, you should not worry yourself sick over possible dangers). The man who sends you down a beer, or who merely fixes your stare, may decide moments later to head for the john, expecting you to follow. The whole business may run its course there, or else he may want to inspect the goods before taking time to go home with you. It's direct, it can be very exciting, but you clearly risk arrest, as well as endangering the bar's license.

Gay bars are scattered worldwide, and in the United States, at least, even smaller cities have at least one or two. But you needn't limit yourself to the bars which are gay. Those who can mix bonhomie with a fair degree of finesse can also find the cruising fairly productive in many apparently hetero bars. Men who get themselves worked up by the cocktail waitress, without any chance of real satisfaction from her are then often willing, if no other women are available for pick-up, to "relieve the pressure" with another guy so long as you say nothing to imply that you consider him to be gay, or that

you think he really likes guys, and all his talk about having the hots for the waitress is so much bull. Maybe he goes through the same act every day, making himself believe that the waitress excites him so much that he just has to get a blow job from another man. But don't pressure him to kinds of action he isn't ready for. Just accept life's little benefits, and don't puncture his illusions. *That* can be dangerous.

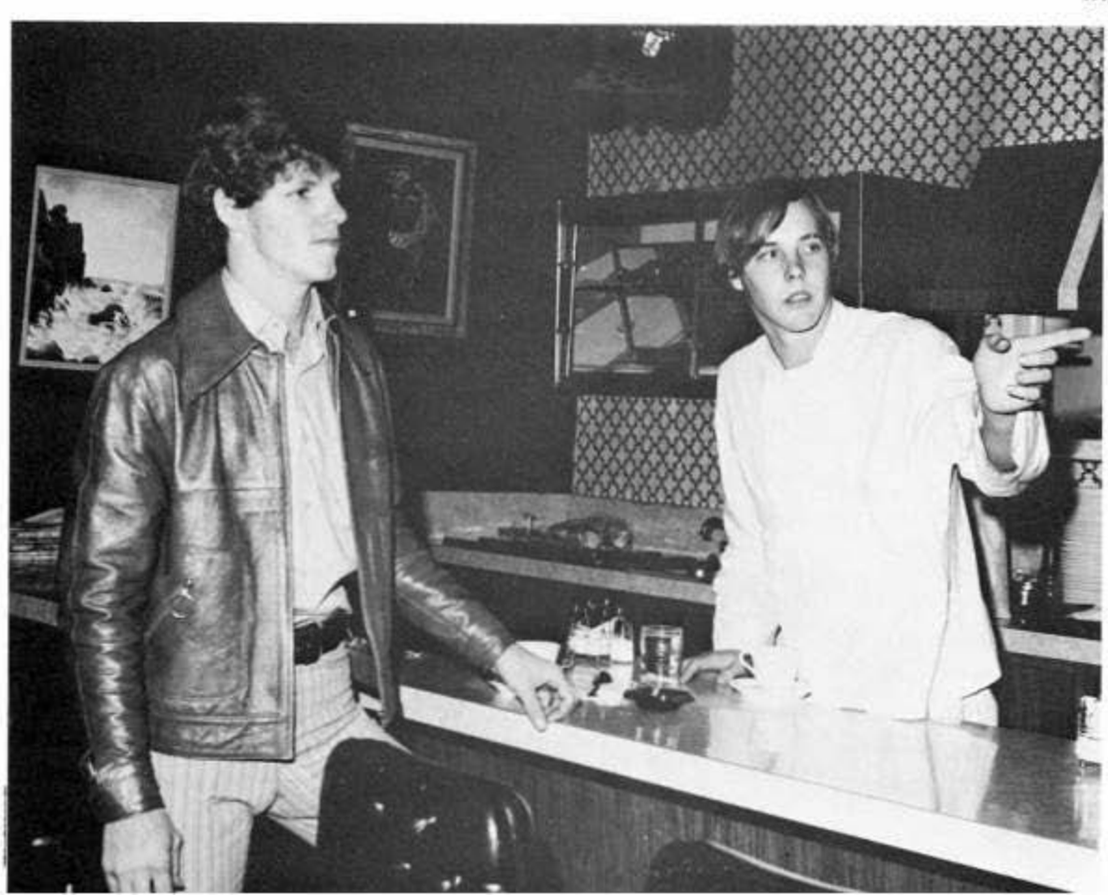
Gay talk would generally be taboo in such a cruising gambit. Try instead for buddy-talk, easy,

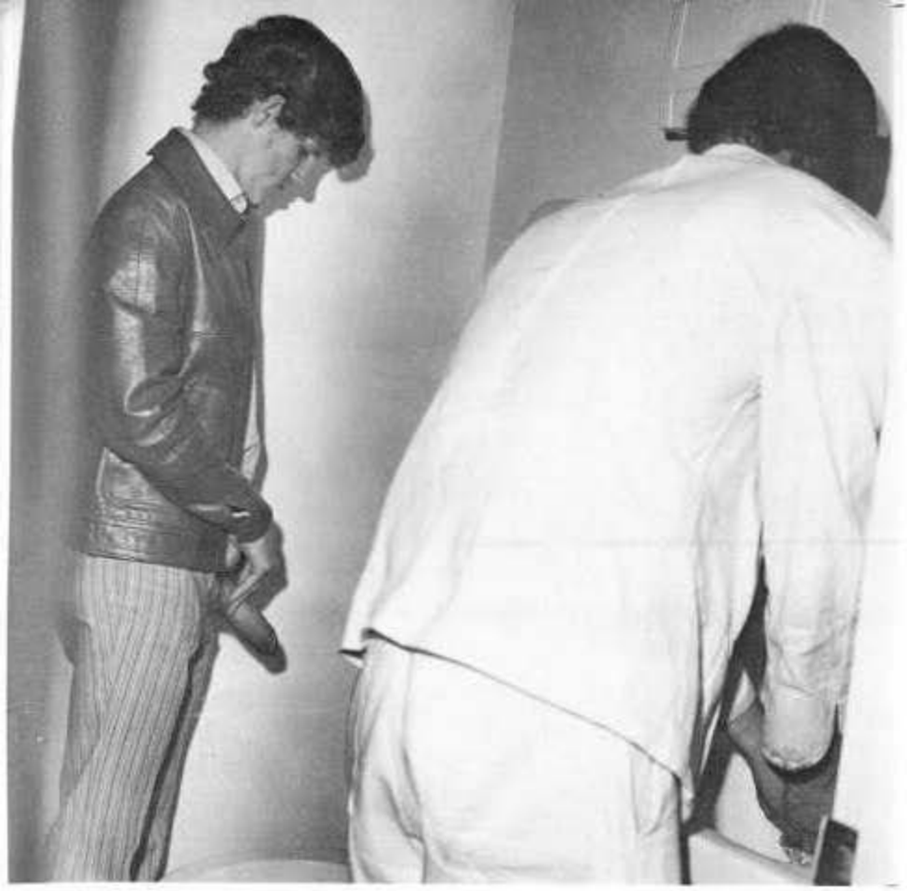


CAFE PICKUP: To the man who travels, cruising is an absolutely necessary part of scoring. Dick Kendall's business keeps him on the road most of the time, and he considers himself to be an expert cruiser. But he admits that he never had it so easy as the night he connected with Larry Olsen at that diner in The-middle-of-nowhere, California. He considers it a pretty unusual situation for successful cruising (in spite of what you might read in paperback novels), but he remembers the night with Larry with special relish, and has been looking for more like it ever since.

macho comments on the waitress' appreciable, but unavailable charms. Tell him you are hard up, too, that your girl friend has the rag on, or your wife has left you, or you haven't had any for two weeks (don't make it much longer, since that would reflect badly on your virility), whatever.

The two of you have to be just big, hard-up boys together, seeking playful, and generally brief





relief, while both of you allegedly have your minds on "snatch."

The exception here would be if you are an outright queen, and can relate to him in such a way that he accepts your effeminincy (even full drag helps here), as a reasonable substitute for the woman he has convinced himself he wants. Either way, you are seen as no more to him, supposedly, than a device to get his gun off----and don't necessarily expect him to return the compliment, unless there's a real give-and-take, you-service-me, and, I'll -service-you bargain established.

Street and park cruising run the gamut from styles which are much like the let's-get-better-acquainted bar approach, to simply catching a man's eye, and if you find a shadow of interest or assent there, leading or following him to the bushes, or to the tearooms, where things can usually be taken care of rather quickly. This approach, as we have said before, is risky. It accounts for at least half of all homosexual arrests, and a number of other casualties. It is blunt, too blunt for the fastidious. But there are con-

noisseurs who wouldn't do it any other way.

Certain parks are perennial favorites: Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, Freedom Park in Charlotte, North Carolina, Bradford Beach in Milwaukee, Union Square, as well as Land's End, in San Francisco, Fern Dell in Hollywood, New York's Central Park ramble, and hundreds more, here and abroad, some locations having been favorites of generations of cruisers.

(The Trucks, two or three locations on Washington in Manhatten, involve a scene that doesn't exactly come under the heading of cruising. Cruising can, of course, be done there, but generally the action, as in many tearooms, is far more direct.)

The cruising scene (or more often it is chiefly a hustling scene), near most bus terminals, has its own special features, best summed up in a more plentiful supply of service men, and also of sometimes dangerous toughs, who are more interested in robbery and beatings, than in enjoying the pleasures of exploring another male body. We repeat the same warning mentioned in connection with cruising het bars: a guy may be available for a little fun only so long as your labeling of what you do doesn't threaten his sometimes unliberated notion of what it means to be a man.

In general, cruising techniques vary, depending on whether the scene is openly and admittedly Gay, or covert and uncertain. In a bar or at a dance, where you can reasonably assume that everyone present is Gay, you don't have to be so terribly circumspect getting around to the subject, and, faced with such riches, you may, in fact, become considerably more particular. In mixed company, your first moves are to determine if someone whose looks you already like happens to be both willing and safe. If you are one of those homosexuals who automatically rules out any Gay as a

potential partner, my only advice is to be sure to arrange beforehand to have competent legal and medical service available.

Don't overlook certain types of markets and department stores, (though the arrest rate is high in some of them). They are often excellent cruising grounds, but one of the chief disadvantages is that they often have handsome young security guards, whose chief interest is to watch for shop-lifters, whose modus operandi looks awfully like cruising, and your cruising methods are likely to attract their attention, because you will look to them like a shop-lifter type.

As a rule, persons who use hitch-hiking, or picking up hitch-hikers, as a ruse for cruising tend to be short on either technique or finesse, because in such cases the approach tends to be pretty direct, like simply asking right out, "Do you fuck?" or putting your hand on the guy's crotch. Fun, if you enjoy a bit of danger. But it's also efficient, and the success rate can be pretty high. The only other questions is----- whether to do it in the car, or not.

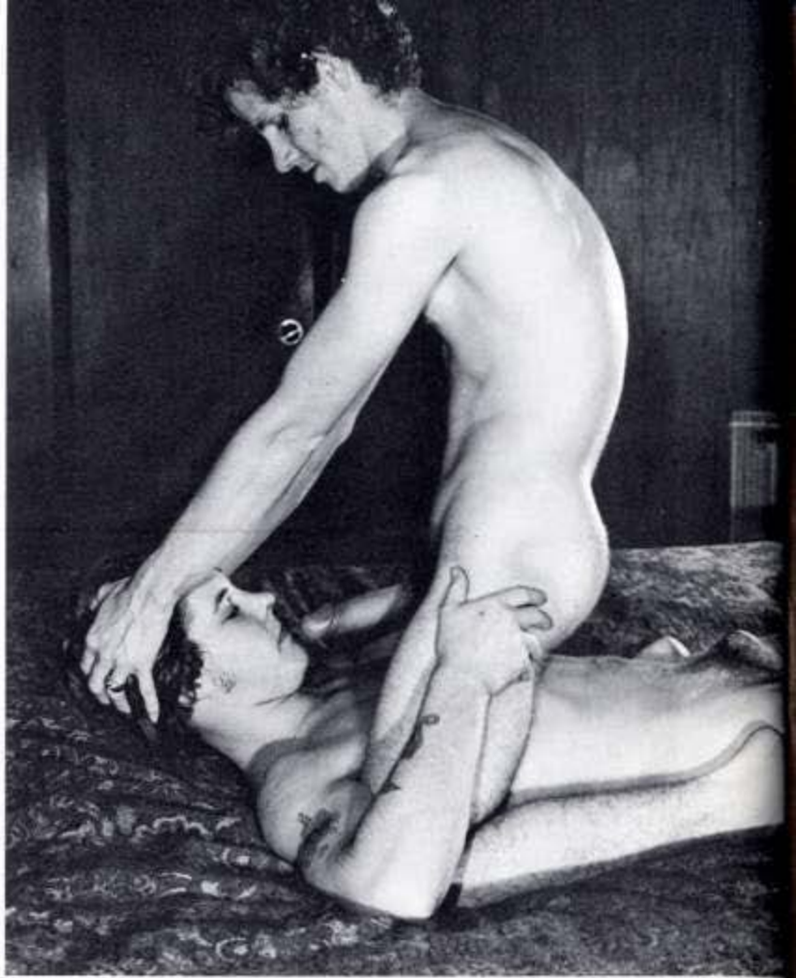
Cruising is, of course, worldwide, and in each country there is likely to be a separate style practiced by natives among themselves, and the more exotic style which tends to be staged for the benefit of tourists, and is often as not, limited to certain easily accessible locations.

Included here would be the widely advertised benefits of North Africa, Mexico and certain other havens for pederasts, especially. Make no mistake about it: in such a locale, an overwhelming percent of the native boys may enjoy spreading their buns and all that, but *your* chief attraction is your wallet, and be sure to guard it. Be decent with them, not patronizing, and they will often be not only willing sexually, but sincerely affectionate, and very helpful as you try to find your way about in a strange land. But don't set yourself up for a dark-alley robbery. You can often have an ingratiating and delightful companion for the duration of your stay, (and you don't need much cruising technique----they will generally find you----unless you want to be very selective).

Does honey have to cruise the bee? Just be judicious. And one rule is to let the happy urchin know that he will profit more by sticking with you, and helping insure your safety for a few days, than by grabbing your wallet at any particular time. Which means don't carry an over-sized bankroll when he shows you through those narrow back alleys in the casbah.

If you go to a country where boy-love is popular, and you want an adult male, then you need more technique and diplomacy, and that means knowing something about the delicacies of local temperment, that is, how not to offend native sensibilities. The results are worth working for.

The variations in Europe are considerable, from southern and



and embarrassment if you can't at least settle in advance, whether money is expected.

In Europe, as in America, how you go about it depends not only on what you want and who you want to do it with, but on what you have to offer. Ideas on this first point are likely to be more restrictive in most European encounters....

Finally, while keeping your sights on the guy you hope to bag, don't slight the pleasures of the hunt itself. Cruising is a game which can be pursued with baleful persistence, even with a mounting frustration and irritability, or it can be played with real joy in the play itself----and guess which gets the best results.

Cruising, above all else, ought to be fun....

central Europe, where almost all the young men you are likely to meet on the street are just as likely to have their price (and don't mind bargainning), and to expect it, when you may have thought you were both just interested in sharing a few hours of pleasure, to the guilt-ridden style of cruising which still seems to prevail in England (a sneaky whisper, which says, "Let's go do something nasty."), to the openness of Amsterdam and Scandinavia.

It is quite possible to cruise even when you and he do not share a language----there's even an extra zest to it----but it can often lead to misunderstanding

THE FINE ART OF CRUISING
A - "How to Book" and a clinical study of contemporary gay behavior in the United States. Anyone seeking to fulfill prurient interests, should look elsewhere.

ADULTS ONLY